

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
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R 151449Z APR 77  
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INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
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CINCLANT  
CINCUSAFE  
CINCUSAREUR  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST  
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3414

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, NATO, TU, GR  
SUBJECT: EXERCISE "DAWN PATROL 77": TURKISH RESERVATION ON  
EXPENDITURE PROPOSAL

REF: USNATO 2155

1. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY BE OF BACKGROUND INTEREST  
IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROBLEM OUTLINED IN REFTEL WITH RESPECT  
TO THE GOG POSITION THAT ITS AIRSPACE EXTENDS 10 MILES FROM ITS  
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COASTS, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE ISLANDS.

2. ARTICLE 2 OF GREEK LAW 5017 OF JUNE 13, 1931 "CONCERNING  
CIVIL AVIATION" READS AS FOLLOWS (OUR UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION):  
"THE STATE EXERCISES FULL AND ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE  
AIRSPACE ABOVE ITS TERRITORY. THE MEANING OF 'GREEK TERRITORY'  
IN THE PRESENT LAW AND IN THE REGULATIONS INCLUDES THE TERRI-

TORIAL WATERS AND THE AIRSPACE ABOVE." (FOOTNOTE) (THE FOOTNOTE READS: "BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1931 BEGIN BRACKETS AT WHICH TIME GREECE WAS A REPUBLIC AND NOT A KINGDOM END BRACKETS, CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF THE WIDTH OF TERRITORIAL WATERS WITH RESPECT TO MATTERS CONCERNING AVIATION AND ITS POLICING, THE FOLLOWING WERE DETERMINED: 'HAVING IN MIND ARTICLE 2... OF LAW 5017 CONCERNING CIVIL AVIATION WE DECIDED AND ORDER: WE DETERMINE THE WIDTH OF THE ZONE OF TERRITORIAL WATERS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 2 OF LAW 5017 AT 10 NAUTICAL MILES FROM THE COAST OF THE STATE.'")

3. WHEN WE ASKED THE MFA ACTING DIRECTOR OF TURKISH AND CYPRIOT AFFAIRS (MACRIS) ABOUT THIS MATTER HE EXPLAINED THAT THE EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 10 NAUTICAL MILES IN 1931 WAS FOR CIVIL AVIATION PURPOSES ONLY. THE ACTUAL LIMIT OF GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS REMAINED AT THREE NAUTICAL MILES UNTIL 1936 WHEN IT WAS INCREASED TO SIX NAUTICAL MILES (LAW 230 OF SEPTEMBER 17, 1936) WHICH IS STILL THE CASE. MACRIS EXPLAINED THAT THE AIRSPACE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AT TEN NAUTICAL MILES FOR "DEFENSE AND SAFETY REASONS;" HE DID NOT EXPLAIN FURTHER.

4. HELLENIC AIR FORCE CONTACTS, AS WELL AS MACRIS, HAVE TOLD US ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS THAT THE GOT ACCEPTED THE GOG CLAIM TO A TEN MILE AIRSPACE WITHOUT ANY RESERVATIONS FROM 1931 UNTIL THE SUMMER OF 1974. (ACTUALLY, ACCORDING TO MACRIS, THE GOT FIRST CHALLENGED THIS GREEK CLAIM IN FEBRUARY 1975.) IN SUPPORT OF THIS OUR HAF CONTACTS HAVE SHOWN US SEVERAL TURKISH AIR FORCE COMMAND (TAF) TELEGRAMS TO THE HELLENIC AIR FORCE COMMAND (DATED JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 1974), IN CONNECTION WITH NOTAMS  
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CONCERNING TURKISH AIR EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN, IN WHICH THE TAF RECOGNIZED THE TEN MILE AIRSPACE LIMIT STATING "EXERCISE A/C WILL NOT APPROACH THE GREEK BOUNDARIES (SIC) CLOSER THAN 10 NAUTICAL MILES."  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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